

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00

STR-08 CEA-02 FEA-02 SCI-06 TRSE-00 SS-20 NSC-10

DRC-01 /106 W

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P 231210Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRORITY 9675

LIMIT*D OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 0398

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN, BE

SUBJECT: SPEAKER FOR ANNUAL DINNER FOR THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE IN BRUSSELS

1. THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN
BRUSSELS, WHICH TAKES PLACE IN THE SPRING OF EACH YEAR, HAS
BECOME THE TRADITIONAL HIGH POINT OF THE ACTIVITY SEASON
OF THE CHAMBER.

2. IT HAS BEEN CUSTOMARY FOR THE DINNER, WHICH IS ATTENDED NOT
ONLY BY ALL LEADING MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY
BUT ALSO BY HIGH RANKING BELGIAN AND EC OFFICIALS AND BELGIAN
BUSINESS LEADERS, TO BE ADDRESSED BY A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE
US GOVERNMENT. IN RECENT YEARS THE DINNER HAS BEEN ADDRESSED
SUCCESSIVELY, FOR EXAMPLE, BY THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE CEA, THE SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, AND LAST
YEAR BY MARINE WHITMAN OF THE CEA.

3. WE HAVE IN THE PAST ASSISTED THE CHAMBER IN LOCATING A
SUITABLE SPEAKER FOR THE OCCASION WHO SHOULD BE OF CABINET
OR IMMEDIATE SUB-CABINET LEVEL. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM IN OUR INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS THIS
YEAR, IT OCCURS TO ME THAT A SPEAKER ON THIS TOPIC WOULD
BE ESPECIALLY SUITABLE IN BRUSSELS WHICH IS THE SEAT OF
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THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

4. AMONG THOSE NAMES THAT NATURALLY OCCUR TO ME ARE FEA ADMINISTRATOR SIMON OR UNDER SECRETARY DONALDSON. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE DEPARTMENT COULD, AS IN THE PAST, ASSIST IN ASCERTAINING IF EITHER OF THESE COULD BE AVAILABLE TO SPEAK AT SOME TIME DURING MARCH, APRIL, OR EARLY MAY (KEEPING IN MIND THE SACROSANCT CHARACTER OF THE EASTER PERIOD). SHOULD NEITHER SIMON OR DONALDSON BE AVAILABLE, I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS OF OTHER APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS WHO MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY BE IN THE ENERGY FIELD BUT WHO COULD DELIVER A MEANINGFUL AND TOPICAL ADDRESS. IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT THE CHAMBER NEEDS ABOUT THREE WEEKS PRIOR NOTICE TO RESERVE A LOCATION AND TO PUBLICIZE THE EVENT.

5. I WOULD APPRECIATE VERY MUCH EARLY INFORMATION WHICH I COULD PASS ON TO THE CHAMBER. STRAUZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEAKERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRUSSE00398
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740123/aaaaautz.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <29 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPEAKER FOR ANNUAL DINNER FOR THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN BRUSSELS
TAGS: SGEN, BE, US, AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005